

XVIII. *Manuale di Anatomia Fisiologica del Dottore LUIGI ROLANDO, Professore de Anatomia nella R. Università di Torino, Consigliere Straordinario del Magistrato del Protomedicato, &c. &c.* Tradotta ed Arrichita di molte Annotazioni dal Dottore in Medicina, GIOVANNI MELONI BAILE. Volume Unico-Milans, 1829, pp. 338.

*Manual of Physiological Anatomy.* Translated from the original Latin of Professor LUIGI ROLANDO, by GIOVANNI MELONI BAILE, M. D. &c.

The work which we have announced above, was published several years ago in the Latin language, but had become so scarce, that the translator of the present edition was induced, with the approbation of the author, to prepare an Italian version of it, to which he has added a considerable number of notes, drawn for the most part, from modern researches. To Haller must be awarded the merit of having first given an impulse to the study of physiological anatomy; a subject which was subsequently so much enriched by the labours and discoveries of Bichat, and which has, in modern times, imposed an entirely new aspect upon the face of medical science. Anatomy and physiology are indissolubly connected with each other, and to render either contributive to useful and important purposes, they must be taken together. To arrive at a knowledge of the functions of the organization, a knowledge of its structure is indispensable; and the mere consideration of the configuration and relations of the organs, without a reference to their offices, would be an employment altogether insipid and void of utility. It is only by pursuing the course first adopted with success by Haller, and so advantageously pursued by nearly all physiologists since his time, of preceding the consideration of the functions, with some account of the structure of the organs by which they are performed, that we can expect to arrive at truth, and secure the establishment of correct principles. This has been done with considerable ability by Professor Rolando, in the work before us, in which we have numerous indications of that strength and clearness of mind which is so fully manifested in his other publications. He commences with a brief exposition of the properties of the several structures which compose the organization. These, according to the author, are, 1, the cellular, which forms all the others; 2, the medullary substance of the brain; 3, the cineritious, or cortical substance of the same organ; 4, the muscular; 5, the tendinous, ligamentous, and aponeurotic; 6, the cartilaginous; and 7, the osseous. These, under various modifications, form other arrangements, which are more perfect, among which we may mention the vascular and nervous, which are designated by the author. He next enters into the consideration of the systems or apparatuses, commencing first with the vascular, including the heart. The description of each organ, or apparatus, is followed by an exposition of its functions or uses; and in reasoning upon these, reference is always had to the characters of the structure. The rudiments of the vascular system are said by Professor Rolando, to exist in the ovum in form of a peculiar spongy lamina, even before conception. The cicatricula of an egg, according to his researches, is composed of the following parts:—1, a peculiarly delicate epidermis, which envelopes the whole of the yolk; 2, a small vesicle, which is the rudiment of the amnion, and which subsequently forms the integuments of the animal; 3, a rounded spongy membrane, which, as the development pro-

gresses, forms the entire vascular system; and 4, the saccus vittelinus of Haller, which constitutes the amorphous rudiment of the alimentary canal. Upon the spongy membrane which forms the vascular system, become ingrafted the first traces of the nervous system, after the cicatrix become fecundated by the semen of the male. These parts soon become more conspicuous; vessels gradually make their appearance, and are at first seen communicating freely with each other. From these, arteries and veins are given off, which, influenced by the rudimentary nervous system, finally form the left auricle and ventricle of the heart, which are developed before the right cavities of that organ. While these changes are taking place in the spongy membrane, the intestines are formed by the saccus vittelinus. These sentiments are at variance with those of Malpighi and Haller, who, our author affirms, fell into the additional error of confounding the ganglions of the great sympathetic nerve with the rudiments of the vertebra.

But to return to the work under consideration, we have only to state, that though the descriptions are brief, they are generally sufficiently minute to prepare the student for the just appreciation of the functions, and that they are drawn up with clearness and accuracy. As the principal object of the author was merely to supply students with the general principles of physiological anatomy, he has refrained from entering into any minute details, and in doing so, he has furnished the junior part of the profession with a work, from which we have no hesitation in saying, they will derive much valuable instruction.

E. G.

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XIX. *Anthropogénèse ou Génération de l'Homme, avec des vues de Comparaison sur les Reproductions des trois règnes de la Nature, et des Recherches sur la Conservation des Espèces et des Races, les ressemblances sexuelles des autres, le Croisement des Races, les Causes de la Fécondité, de la Stérilité, de l'Empuissance et sur d'Autres Phénomènes des Revivifications Naturelles.* Par J. B. DEMANGEON, M. D. &c. &c. Paris, 1829. pp. 346. 8vo.

In investigating the intricate subject of generation, M. Demangeon has not been content with treating of its phenomena in man alone, but has extended his researches into the three kingdoms of nature, and from a comparison of different modes adopted by nature for the reproduction and perpetuation of her works, has endeavoured to establish a theory of generation founded on what takes place, instead of on assumed facts, and oftentimes extravagant assertions. He has not, however, been satisfied with this ample field, but has pursued the subject in its relations with practical medicine and with jurisprudence. We do not think he has been altogether successful in this undertaking, though he has certainly presented the world with a work abounding in new views, which may lead to ulterior investigations, and finally tend to establish this doubtful and contested subject on a settled and fixed basis.

From the nature of the work it is impossible for us to do more at the present time than to lay before our readers an analysis of its contents, with some very cursory observations on a few of the topics he has discussed. The first chapter is on generation in those species in which there is a known difference of sex. The author here takes a rapid view of the reproductive process in the vegeta-